

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 472

By McCormick

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Gunnery Sergeant
Thomas J. Sullivan, United States Marine Corps,
of Springfield, Maryland.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly, like every American, were greatly saddened by the targeted attack upon the U.S. Naval and Marine Reserve Center and recruitment facilities in Chattanooga on July 16, 2015, and the tragic loss of life suffered; and

WHEREAS, this tragedy has touched the hearts and lives of people across the nation, but it is a deeply personal loss to those family and friends who lost a loved one, be they a spouse, parent, grandparent, sibling, son, or daughter; and

WHEREAS, the lives of a family from Maryland were forever changed on that day when they lost their precious son, Gunnery Sergeant Thomas J. Sullivan of the United States Marines Corps, who served as part of the Mike Battery, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve; and

WHEREAS, born in Springfield, Maryland, on March 22, 1975, to Jeremiah and Mary Vecchiarelli Sullivan, Gunnery Sergeant Thomas Sullivan graduated from Cathedral High School in Springfield, Maryland, in 1994 before earning a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He was working on his master's degree at the time of his death; and

WHEREAS, Gunnery Sergeant Sullivan proudly served nearly two decades in the United States Marine Corps specializing as a field artillery cannoneer. He served two deployments in Iraq and also served in the Western Pacific; and

WHEREAS, a patriotic young man who displayed enthusiasm for every endeavor, Gunnery Sergeant Thomas Sullivan was awarded four Good Conduct Medals, two Purple Hearts, a Combat Action Ribbon, a Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal, a Korean Defense Service Medal, a Recruiting Ribbon, two Iraq Campaign Medals, five Sea Service Deployment

Ribbons, an Armed Forces Service Medal, a Humanitarian Service Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and a National Defense Service Medal; and

WHEREAS, Gunnery Sergeant Sullivan was deeply devoted to his family and always looked for opportunities to provide assistance to those in need; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his parents, his brother, Joseph Sullivan, his sister, Dianne Sullivan (John) Caron, his maternal grandmother, Mary Vecchiarelli, his uncle, Patrick Sullivan, his aunt, Dianne Mullin, his nephew, Connor Hendrix, and his nieces, Chloe Sullivan, Nikki Caron, and Mary Kate Caron; and

WHEREAS, Gunnery Sergeant Thomas Sullivan leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should remember the tragically short yet courageous life of this exceptional human being and proud member of the United States Marine Corps; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Gunnery Sergeant Thomas J. Sullivan of the United States Marine Corps, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Gunnery Sergeant Thomas Sullivan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.